

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 29 November 2007. Responsive to the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 15, and 22 have been amended for clarification thereof. Claims 1-22 remain pending in the subject Patent Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 1 due to a minor informality. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informality. Similarly, dependent Claims 2 and 15 have been amended to be conformity with currently-amended independent Claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner's objection in this regard is now believed to be obviated.

The Examiner then rejected Claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, stating that the claimed invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the Claims appear useful and concrete, but that there did not appear to be a tangible result claimed. Accordingly, the Examiner's suggestion has been adopted: Claim 1 has been amended and is believed to now, more clearly recite a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

The Examiner stated that Claim 22, in order to realize any functionality, must necessarily include at least one element of hardware, but that the Claim does not show any hardware performing. Accordingly, the Examiner's suggestions in this regard have been adopted also, and independent Claim 22 has been amended to more clearly recite the hardware incorporated therein. For example, independent Claim 22 now recites "an interface for bi-directional communication

between a user and said computer system." It is believed that with the provision of a bi-directional communication means, this would implicitly and inherently include an input and an output hardware for communicating with the user, especially when read in conjunction with the other limitations of Claim 22: "A computer system; means...for storing data; means for forming...; an interface for bi-directional communication...; means for... computing.

Further, Claim 22 is amended to include a "means in said computer system for storing said computed optimal data association rules for retrieval," also per the Examiner's suggestion.

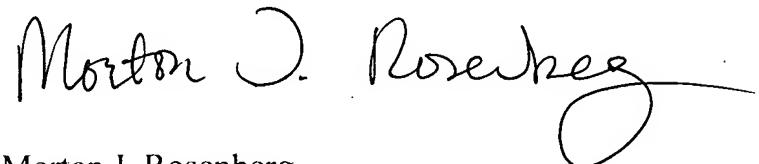
It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added as each clarifying amendment was already inherent and implicit in the Claims, and indeed thoroughly disclosed in the specification as originally filed.

Thus, Claims 1-22 are believed to recite a useful, concrete, and tangible result, and are thus statutorily permissible subject matter.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is therefore now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

If there are any further charges associated with this filing, the Honorable Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account #18-2011 for such charges.

Respectfully submitted,  
For: ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE



Morton J. Rosenberg  
Registration #26,049

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Suite 101  
3458 Ellicott Center Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 465-6678  
Customer No. 04586